

Ser. No. 09/207,361
Internal Docket No. PD970090
Customer No. 24498

PATENT

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Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) Magneto-optical recording or reproducing device comprising

an information erasing means, and, in the case of recording information, a writing device, formed from a writing magnet and an optical scanning device, for overwriting information or data recorded on a magneto-optical recording medium, wherein

the information erasing means is formed by an erasing magnet having a magnetic field which is directed opposite to the magnet of the writing device, the information erasing means is connected with the optical scanning device to one of erase, and erase and initialize the magneto-optical recording medium only in a region upstream of a track to be written directly before the recording of new information or data and has a field strength sufficient to initialize the magneto-optical recording medium and to erase information previously stored on the magneto-optical recording medium without the assistance of a laser.

2. (Previously presented) Magneto-optical recording or reproducing device according to Claim 1, wherein the erasing magnet has a mechanical connection to the writing device.

3. (Previously presented) Magneto-optical recording or reproducing device according to Claim 1, wherein the erasing magnet has a mechanical connection to the writing device and the mechanical connection of the erasing magnet to the writing device is a joint.

4-5. Cancelled.

6. (Previously presented) Magneto-optical recording or reproducing device according to Claim 1, wherein the erasing magnet is a permanent magnet.

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7. (Previously presented) Magneto-optical recording or reproducing device according to Claim 1, wherein the erasing magnet is connected to a means for deactivating the erasing magnet.

8. (Previously presented) Magneto-optical recording or reproducing device according to Claim 1, wherein the erasing magnet is connected to a means for deactivating the erasing magnet and the means for deactivating the erasing magnet is an electromagnet.

9. (Previously presented) Magneto-optical recording or reproducing device according to Claim 1, wherein the erasing magnet is an electromagnet.

10. (Currently amended) Magneto-optical recording or reproducing device comprising:

an information erasing means and, in the case of recording information, a writing device, formed from a writing magnet and [[an]] a first optical scanning device, for overwriting information or data recorded on a magneto-optical recording medium;

an erasing magnet having a magnetic field which is directed opposite to the magnet of the writing device and having a field strength sufficient for initializing and erasing information previously stored on the magneto-optical recording medium without the assistance of a laser; and

a second optical scanning device for reproducing information or data stored on the magneto-optical recording medium,

the first and second optical scanning devices simultaneously recording and reproducing information or data and wherein the information erasing means is connected with the optical scanning device to one of erase, and erase and initialize the magneto-optical recording medium only in a region upstream of a track to be written directly before the recording of new information or data.